1997 and 1998 in the Main exchange of Gurgaon are likely to be given connections by February, 2000. In all other exchanges of Gurgaon waiting list has been cleared beyond March 1999.

Inadequate representation to SC and ST officers in JAG and SAG Grades under Central Staffing Scheme

1250. SHRI CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts in the Ministry of Communications, has not been giving adequate representation of SC and ST officers while sponsoring officers in the JAG and SAG grades on Central and other deputations under the Central Staffing Scheme in contravention of instructions issued by the Department of Personnel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the officers category-wise sponsored for all kinds of deputations during the last three years; and

(d) the plans to remove this discrimination and anomaly alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No. Sir, Officers of Indian Postal Service are nominated for empanelment under the Central Staffing Scheme as per instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training which *inter-alia*, stipulate the following guidelines to be observed while nominating officers;

(i) Officers should not have been debarred from deputation under the Central Staffing Scheme,

(ii) Officers should have completed the period of 'cooling off' as prescribed for Central deputation,

(iii) Officers who are willing and eligible,

(iv) Officers who are clear from the Vigilance angle,

(v) Officers whose performance assessment is of the prescribed grade or above,

(vi) Officers should have the prescribed minimum years of service/basic pay for each level at which empanelment is done.

SC and ST officers eligible as per these guidelines have been included among those nominated by this Department for Central deputations.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) Year	Officers nominated		
	Total	SC	ST
1996	8	—	1
1997	8	—	—
1998	30	1	4

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (a) above.

Recovery of Outstanding Dues of Telephone Bills

1251. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 517 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 1998 and state:

(a) the efforts made so far and those proposed to recover Government dues pertaining to telephone bills from those who have not yet cleared the same;

(b) whether Government have disconnected the telephones of those persons as is done in the cases of electricity defaulters; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Adivasi and Non-Adivasi areas of Maharashtra

1252. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: